

# COUNTRYSIDE MANOR OF BRISTOL

February 5, 2015

*Written testimony of Erica Roman, Administrator, Administrator of Countryside Manor of Bristol*

**\*Proposed H.B. No. 5586 AN ACT INCREASING NURSING FACILITY RATES.**  
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05586-R00-HB.htm>

**\*Proposed H.B. No. 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NURSING FACILITIES.** <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05812-R00-HB.htm>

**\*Proposed S.B. No. 231 AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR NURSING HOMES.** <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/S/2015SB-00231-R00-SB.htm>

Good evening Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Erica Roman. I am the administrator at Countryside Manor of Bristol located in Bristol, Connecticut. Countryside Manor is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the community of Bristol. We are a 90 bed skilled nursing facility that employs 180 hardworking individuals. Countryside is recognized as a 5 star facility according to the Nursing Home Compare website. We have been recently recognized by AHCA and Qualidigm for reducing hospitalizations, reducing antipsychotics and increasing staff stability.

First, I want to publicly thank the state legislators who introduced these desperately needed bills-House Republican Leader Klarides, and Representatives Perillo and Gentile, and State Senator Crisco. And thank you also to the Human Services Committee for including these bills at this public hearing.

There is a common issue that is covered by the bills being discussed today. Nursing homes have not had an increase in the Medicaid rates since 2007; however healthcare costs have continued to rise.

The message that I am trying to send today is simple, our nursing homes need your help desperately. The residents of CT who need nursing care today and in the future will be the ones to suffer if these bills are not passed. The hard working and dedicated employees who provide that care will be negatively impacted as well.

Here are some examples of what we are up against in our nursing facility while the rates have been stagnant:

- With the increase in home care and the strong focus on reducing hospitalizations, nursing home residents have required a higher level of care over the last few years. Skilled nursing facilities are providing high skilled nursing care to residents in house as opposed to sending out to a hospital. These